

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-17 now stand in the present application, claim 4 having been written in independent form and new claims 13-17 corresponding to original claims 3, 5, 6, 16 and 17, having been added. In addition, an Information Disclosure Statement has been filed concurrently with this Request for Continued Examination and Amendment identifying Office Actions and references cited therein in the related U.S. Patent Application No. 10/593,587.

An early action on the merits with respect to these filings is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:


Chris Comuntzis
Reg. No. 31,097

CC:lmr
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100